

GROWING DEEP IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS

GOD'S BODY-BUILDING PROGRAM

MATTHEW 16:13–18; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27



The Heart of the Matter

We have examined Scripture to find out what we are to be involved in between now and when Christ returns. But what is the *Lord* doing? What is He concerned about during this present time? The answer is clear, according to the New Testament. It's the same project He's been working on since the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. Jesus said, "I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18), and that is what He has been doing. In this lesson, we will consider what building the church means, what it includes, and why it is so important. Because all who are born into God's family become members of His body, we need to understand the benefits of such a union.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Essentials about the Church (Matthew 16:13–18)

We understand the church to be an ever-increasing body of believers who comprise the family of God, under the Lordship of Christ.

2. Vital Signs of a Healthy Church (1 Corinthians 12:12–27)

Any healthy church will show signs of health, such as the presence of unity, the absence of favoritism, an emphasis on individual value and mutual variety, a de-emphasis on individualism and self-sufficiency, the support of others, and the exaltation of Christ as primary authority.

3. Contagious Diseases That Cripple the Church

God's people weaken the body of Christ through pride, indifference, or an unwillingness to apply theology to daily life.



Starting Your Journey

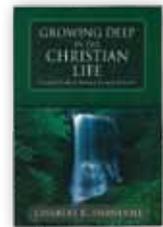
As believers, we must each ask ourselves if we are part of the problem or part of the solution in the church, recommitting ourselves to serve the Lord's goals for His glory.



Tools for Digging Deeper



Growing Deep in the Christian Life: Returning to Our Roots
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series of 23 CDs, with workbook



Growing Deep in the Christian Life: Essential Truths for Becoming Strong in the Faith
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